

WEST LAKES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023 – Vol 3



Grab your pumpkin spice latte, flannel blanket, and a cozy sweater because fall is upon us once again. While it's time to say farewell to hot summer days spent on the lake, autumn brings adventure and excitement all its own. The colorful trees reflecting on the water, the birds readying for their flights south, wildlife preparing for the winter here, fishing, football, pumpkins, apple picking, corn mazes although I love the summer, I think Fall is my favorite time of year.

Your West Lakes Association Board of Directors held their final meeting of this season on Wednesday, September 27. Even though the “official” meetings have ended, be assured they will be working throughout the fall and winter on issues that concern you and our lakes.



These issues include forming next year’s **Budget**, revising **Bylaws**, learning about **Conservancies**, keeping abreast of **New Legislation**, writing **Policies**, offering **Workshops** – your Board Members are available throughout the off season via email or phone. **Do not hesitate to contact them.**

Thank you to everyone who completed the Survey given at the Fall Members Meeting on Saturday, August 26. The completion rate for this survey was very good and some of the results were surprising:

- #1 – Main use of lake – Boating/Fishing
- #2 – Do we have a Water Quality Issue – strong YES
- #3 – Does Weed Spraying and Removing Trees help - Unanimous YES
- #4 – Have you seen a Change in Fishing Conditions - higher # said YES
- #5 - Workshops – See below
- #6 – Would you like to see New Building on our lakes – higher # said YES



- #7 – Do you Expect WLA to Fund Future Dredging Projects – 50/50 - a little higher said NO
- #8 – Would you like to Participate on Board – 4 people said YES
- #9 – Majority who completed the survey were FULL TIME Residents

Workshops – All workshops had numbers of those interested in attending. The two with the most interest were County Drains and Environmental Changes; Water Quality also had a high # of YES.



Our latest numbers show that approximately 2/3rds of our lake residents are part-time/seasonal (152 full-time vs 292 part-time).

Outside

- * Boats should be out of the water by Oct. 15, the tentative date to remove the stop logs. The lake is already low and will possibly be lower once the stop logs are removed. If your boat is not out by then, you may have trouble getting it through channels or lower sections of the lakes.
- * Piers and shore stations should be removed from water and secured on shore so that rising water will not float them off.
- * Any anchors for swim platforms, buoys or other water apparatus should be pulled up and taken out.
- * Lake toys and furniture including paddle boats, kayaks, patio furniture, and lawn decorations should be stored away from the shore, covered and secured.

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

The Stop Logs were taken out on Sunday afternoon, October 22. Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

Inside

(If you close your house for the winter)

- * Water should be turned off. Outside hoses need to be removed from faucet and stored. Inside faucets should be opened and drained, including the hot water heater – blowing air through pipes if possible. RV antifreeze should be put in toilet bowl and in elbows of pipes.
- * Thermostat should be set at about 50 to keep the house from freezing. It also helps to open all cupboard doors to keep warmer air circulating. Make sure to check propane level if that is your source for heating.
- * Critters – remove all groceries or put all food that would attract critters in plastic sealed containers. Sprinkle moth balls and/or set traps to further keep them out. Unplug and empty refrigerator and freezer and keep doors open – this helps to keep mold from growing. It is also a good idea to unplug all appliances.

These are the main practices we followed during our 20 years of closing our lake house, some of which were learned after the fact and through experience. It also helps tremendously if you have a close neighbor who is willing to keep you posted of any emergencies that may need your attention during the winter months.



It seems the holidays are starting earlier and earlier with the little ghosts and goblins' "trick or treating" time barely here and already there are numerous Craft Bazaar's, Craft Fairs, Holiday Walks and other activities scheduled and already starting. Joining in with the festivities, WLA will be selling Janis Sproat's famous peanut brittle at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship Craft Fair on Saturday, November 18. If you have any crafts that you would like to set up and sell, a 10' x 10' spot plus 1 table would only be \$20 for WLA members, \$30 if not a member. If you are willing to help or have any questions about making or selling the peanut brittle,

contact Janis directly at janissproat@aol.com, (260) 645-0550. Questions about the craft sale, contact Diann Scott at scottdianna103@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events

October 31 - Halloween
November 5 - Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)
November 18 - Craft Fair-Vineyard Christian Fellowship
November 23 - Thanksgiving

.....and finally,

On behalf of your West Lakes Association Board of Directors, a big "Thank You" to everyone for a wonderful "2023 Lake Season". Our best wishes that you stay warm through the winter, enjoy quality time over the holidays with friends and family, and have a healthy, happy and prosperous 2024.

See you next year!